



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

# NEWS RELEASE

Release: #16-027

April 13, 2016

Contact: Charlene Cheng

E-mail: [communications@cde.ca.gov](mailto:communications@cde.ca.gov)

Phone: 916-319-0818

## State Schools Chief Tom Torlakson Announces 2016 California Gold Ribbon Schools Award

SACRAMENTO—State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson today announced that 772 elementary schools are being honored under the Gold Ribbon Schools Awards Program

The list of recognized schools is attached at the end of this press release.

"These schools shine as bright beacons for others, putting forth an exemplary effort to ensure that every student is ready for 21<sup>st</sup> century college and careers," Torlakson said. "California teachers are developing an education model for the nation, training the students of today to be the problem-solvers, inventors, and pioneers of tomorrow."

The California Gold Ribbon Schools Award was created to honor schools in place of the California Distinguished Schools Program, which is on hiatus while California creates new assessment and accountability systems. Nearly 6,000 elementary schools were eligible to apply this year.

Schools applied for the award based on a model program or practice their school has adopted that includes standards-based activities, projects, strategies, and practices that can be replicated by other local educational agencies. The award recognized middle and high schools last year.

The Gold Ribbon Awards recognize California schools that have made gains in implementing the academic content and performance standards adopted by the State Board of Education. These include the California Standards for English Language Arts

and Mathematics, California English Language Development Standards, and Next Generation Science Standards.

The 2016 Elementary Gold Ribbon Schools as well as the 2016 Exemplary Program recipients, Title I Academic Achieving Schools, 2016 Green Ribbon Schools, 2016 Civic Learning Award Schools, and the National Blue Ribbon Schools from 2015, will be honored in May/June during regional ceremonies held in Santa Clara, Anaheim, Los Angeles, Visalia, and Sacramento.

The Gold Ribbon Schools being recognized for Exemplary Programs in Arts Education and Physical Education and Nutrition, or receiving the Title I Academic Achievement Award, will be announced soon.